



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

SYBIL BRAND COMMISSION FOR INSTITUTIONAL INSPECTIONS
372 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012
(213) 974-1465 or (213) 974-1431
Website: <http://sbc.lacounty.gov>

FOUNDER
Mrs. Sybil Brand

CHAIRPERSON
Mrs. Eleanor R. Montaña

VICE CHAIRPERSON
Mr. Frank S. Bacio

Ms. Barbara Bigby
Ms. Rita Hall
Mr. John A. Hammargren
Mrs. Anne S. Hill
Mr. Carl E. Moore

MINUTES OF THE SYBIL BRAND COMMISSION FOR INSTITUTIONAL INSPECTIONS REGULAR WEEKLY MEETING AUGUST 26, 2009

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Montaña called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m.

OPENING CEREMONIES

Chair Montaña led the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a moment of silence.

ATTENDANCE

Present

Chair Eleanor R. Montaña
Vice Chair Frank Bacio
Barbara Bigby
John A. Hammargren
Anne S. Hill
Carl E. Moore

Excused Absence

Rita Hall

Staff, Commission Services

Martha Arana
Jimmy Prieto
Andrew Sevrin

APPROVAL OF AUGUST 19, 2009, MEETING MINUTES

On motion of Commissioner Bigby, seconded by Commissioner Hammargren, and unanimously carried, the minutes of the meeting of August 19, 2009, were approved with the following changes:

On page 2, under Sheriff's Department:

- The Long Beach Courthouse has completed repairs to the portion of the floors that needed repairing. **Further repairs to the floor are still needed**. Photos showing progress were provided. He commended and thanked the Commission for bringing this matter to facilities' attention.

On page 5, under Audit Report:

- Deliann Lucile Corporation – 12, #4 – Audit report dated August 19, 2009. Group home was inspected and found to be in satisfactory condition. **Commissioner Moore** **Audit report** recommends that staff treat clients with respect and dignity.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair Montaño reported on the following:

- “Donald T. Sterling Charitable Foundation”, Los Angeles Times, announcing the *Donald T. Sterling Charity Excellence Awards* to twenty charities that have provided leadership, dedication, and thousands of hours to make life better for the underprivileged in Los Angeles.
- “No Papers, and No Way to Get Ahead”, Los Angeles Times, August 23, 2009, regarding youths who are seeking the assistance in establishing their identities from a nonprofit Los Angeles law firm because they lack documentation (i.e. birth certificates), and are unable to navigate through society or get assistance through Los Angeles County's Welfare System.
- “Boy Sets Off Blast at High School”, Los Angeles Times, August 25, 2009, regarding a 17-year-old who was arrested for carrying explosives and setting off a blast at a Northern California high school.
- “Group Home Caretaker Beaten”, Los Angeles Times, August 25, 2009, regarding two juveniles who were booked in Juvenile Hall on suspicion of attempted murder for tying and severely beating a Yucaipa Group home caretaker.
- “Caseloads for Social Workers Called Too High”, Daily Breeze, August 26, 2009, regarding higher caseloads for social workers in Los Angeles County compared to the surrounding counties, which would require the County to hire 1,695 new social workers and would result in a cost of \$180.5 million.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Vice Chair Bacio reported that the current balance of the Commission's Charitable Fund is \$1501.93.

CORRESPONDENCE/AUDIT REPORTS

Commissioners Bacio and Hammargren reviewed the following reports with the commission:

Counseling & Research Associates dba Masada Homes – Newel and Ralston Group Homes– Audit report dated August 25, 2009. Report revealed that all areas of concern have been corrected.

Children's Homes of Southern California – Baird, Runnymede, Shoup, Valerio and Victory
Group Homes – Audit report dated August 18, 2009. No significant issues were noted.

DISCUSSION OF SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Vice Chair Bacio reported that he made contact with a counselor, at East Los Angeles PAU, who is in charge of schools in the eastside and will help seek suitable candidates for the Commission's scholarship program. Applications were provided to the school.

Commissioner Moore reported that his organization awarded nine (9) youths who may be suitable candidates for consideration. He noted that particularly, one (1) of the nine candidates who is a member of the Los Angeles Police Department Explorer Program would be the best fit to receive a scholarship from the Commission.

Commissioner Hammargren commented that the commission's mission is to donate to candidates that do not receive any kind assistance.

The Commission will continue to seek candidates.

GUEST, MS. JENNIFER LEHMAN, COUNTY COUNSEL

Ms. Jennifer Lehman, County Counsel, reviewed and discussed the Commission's "*Sybil Brand Commission for Institutional Inspections for Courts, Custody/Jail, Probation and Sheriff Stations*" reporting form, and will return with proposed changes to form, at the next Commission meeting.

FACILITY/GROUP HOME INSPECTION REPORTS FROM AUGUST 19, 2009 TO AUGUST 25, 2009

Deliaann Lucille Corporation – 12, #4 – Commissioners, Bacio and Moore

The facility was visited on August 20, 2009, and found to be in satisfactory condition.

New Outlook Boy's Home – 32, #2 – Commissioners, Hammargren and Montaño

The facility was visited on August 24, 2009, and found to be in unsatisfactory condition.

Areas of Concern: A burned hedge next to the sidewalk on the east side of the house has not been removed; a dense profusion of vegetation limits emergency egress from at least one room on the east side of the residence creating a potential fire hazard; the crawl holes underneath the residence have torn screens and provide access for large vermin such as rats, cats or small dogs (two unabated rat stations were observed next to two of the crawl holes); destroyed cabinetry was left on the parkway on the east side of the house; the rear, elevated porch lacks a railing causing a safety hazard for residents/visitors; the furniture was sparse and in poor condition; interior of the home was very dirty -- kitchen countertops, cabinet faces, and floor had a sticky film, oven was very dirty, refrigerator door handle was missing, toilet had not been flushed, bath water was brown with rust when faucets were first turned on, shower had mold and in need of recaulking, apparent mold in utility room; attic has open access; heater door was pounded in and encrusted with dirt; the computer was inoperable; linen closet was piled with unfolded linens and blankets; bedrooms were messy (clothes strewn about the floors and the closets were piled with unfolded clothes; unable to tell if clothes were clean or dirty; a two-day supply of perishables and fruit were not available; *Needs and Services Plans* were not on site;

required documentation was not posted; house vehicle (van) was not on site; residents were in bed at 10:30 a.m., with the exception of one; 14-year-old male may be in an inappropriate RCL Level 7 home (minor appeared to be subdued and under the influence of medication and may be danger to himself and others).

Due to the severity of the conditions of this home, the Commission contacted the State Department of Social Services, Community Care Licensing Division, and the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS).

Commissioner Moore recommended sending a letter Board of Supervisors regarding the Commission's concerns on the New Outlook Boys Home. After discussion, on motion of Commissioner Hammargren, seconded by Hill, and unanimously carried, the Commission approved to write a letter regarding concerns observed by the Commission at the New Outlook Boys Home to the Chairman Knabe, Board of Supervisors, with copies to Supervisors Molina, Ridley-Thomas, Yaroslavsky, Antonovich, and to Ms. Patricia Ploehn, Director, Department of Children and Family Services,.

Counseling & Research Associate/Masada Home, – 11 #2 – Commissioners, Bacio and Moore

The facility was visited on August 25, 2009, and found to be in satisfactory condition.

Area of Concern: No clothing or spending allowance document on site.

Dream Catcher Foundation – 14, #1 – Commissioners Hammargren, and Montaña

The facility was visited on August 25, 2009, and found to be in satisfactory condition

NEW BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

There was none

MATTERS NOT ON THE AGENDA (To be presented and placed on a future agenda)

Approval of the "Sybil Brand Commission for Institutional Inspections for Courts, Custody/Jails, Probation, and Sheriff Stations" reporting form was placed on the next meeting agenda.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was none.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Montaña adjourned the meeting at 11:25 a.m. in the memory of U.S. Senator Ted Kennedy who lost the battle with brain cancer at the age of 74, and Torrance Officers (father and son) Steve Kroesen (age 34) and Gus Kroesen (age 64), both succumbed to cancer.

Respectfully submitted,

Martha Arana
Commission Services Division